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Fund Bill in the Madras Legislative Assembly, will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to place on the table—

(*a*) a statement showing the names of all the minor ports in the Presidency (districtwar);

(*b*) the surplus amount which each port had got to its credit on 1st April 1938;

(*c*) the estimated, or approximate amount, required for each port for improvement as per the proposal of the Presidency Port Officer, if any;

(*d*) whether Point Calimere (Tanjore district) is a recognized minor port or not; and

(*e*) if not, whether there is any proposal to open a port at Point Calimere, and if so, at what stage the matter stands?

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—"(*a*) A statement [a] is laid on the table.

"(*b*) As the minor ports are worked on a consolidated basis, the particulars required by the hon. Member are not available.

"(*c*) A statement [a] showing the works and the amounts of estimates submitted by the Presidency Port Officer is laid on the table. These proposals are under examination.

"(*d*) In 1931 Point Calimere was closed for foreign trade and it is now a sub-port of Thopputhorai.

"(*e*) The Central Government has been addressed for opening Point Calimere Port for foreign trade and travel and their reply is awaited."

Provisions of Non-official Bill to amend the Madras Outports Landing and Shipping Fees Act, 1885, *which was dropped by Government in* 1930.

* 71-D *Q.*—MR. J. A. SALDANHA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to refer to the answer given on 21st December 1937 to my unstarred question No. 5 as to the proposed legislation for amending or replacing the Madras Outports Landing and Shipping Fees Act, 1885 (III of 1885), and to state—

(*a*) whether the proposed legislation contemplates the amalgamation of the provisions of that Madras Act and the Indian Ports Act, 1908, for the administration of the minor ports in this Province and the several funds thereunder;

(*b*) whether a Bill by a non-official Member of the Legislative Council for amending the abovementioned Madras Act was submitted to the Government Finance (Marine) through the Secretary to the Legislative Council in 1925 and under what circumstances that Bill was dropped;

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[a] Printed as Appendix VIII on pages 82–83 infra.

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(*c*) whether the Bill proposed to be introduced by Government in 1930 and dropped in 1934 was drafted after getting the sanction of the Government of India;

(*d*) whether there were provisions in it for introducing the elective principle for any members of the local port administrative bodies as representatives of payers of taxes and fees; and

(*e*) on what grounds the Presidency Port Officer, it is stated, considered that legislation in the matter of amending or replacing the abovementioned Madras enactment was neither necessary nor desirable and the Government then concurred in that view and now do not propose to take any action?

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—" (*a*) The answer is in the negative.

" (*b*) Yes; the Central Government expressed inability to give sanction to the Bill.

" (*c*) The answer is in the affirmative.

" (*d*) The Bill provided *inter alia* for the election of members by a municipal council or a Chamber of Commerce or any other body representing commercial interests.

" (*e*) Legislation was not recommended by the Presidency Port Officer on the ground that the provisions of the Indian Ports Act XV of 1908 and the Madras Outports Landing and Shipping Fees Act were adequate for the purpose of the administration of the minor ports. The hon. Member's attention is in this connexion invited to the answer to starred question No. 71-B (*d*)."

MR. J. A. SALDANHA:—" May I know, Sir, whether the Government have at least now found that the administration of these ports has been very unsatisfactory?"

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—" The Government have found that the administration of these ports has been quite satisfactory."

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Fixity of tenure to tenants of ryotwari landholders in South Kanara.

15 *Q.*—MR. J. A. SALDANHA: With reference to the answer given to my question No. 3 on 21st December 1937, will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state whether, during his visit to Mangalore in June 1938 the Hon. the Prime Minister received a representation from any body for granting fixity of tenure to tenants of ryotwari landlords in South Kanara, if so what the terms of the prayer made are, what reply the Hon. the Prime Minister gave and what action Government have taken on the proposed fixity of tenure for such tenants and subject to what conditions?